executive has become irresponsible is a very serious matter. Shri Jaswant Singh said that it was incumbent on the Government to come forward with its reaction. ...*(Interruptions)* Please control your Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is concluding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh said that it was incumbent on the Government to come forward with its own reaction. According to me, it was incumbent on the Government to totally ignore these observations. I congratulate the Government for having ignored It. I want to say, with all respect to the judiciary, that please do not create a situation of confrontation. Let us not go back to that U.P. case, which has created a bad history in our country. Let us not go back to that situation and let us have our own areas of functioning. Therefore, I submit that the Government has a right to ignore it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) : Mr. Chairman, I am trying to raise this issue since 22nd but I could not get the time. Safai Karmcharis of Uttar Pradesh Notified Area and Municipality are on Dharana in front of Legislative Assembly. Country is going to celebrate its 50th year of Independence, will it be fair if we neglect them? Are we going to celebrate the 50th year of Independence like this? When India got freedom, it was hoped that now they will be given a fair hearing but everyone turned a deaf ear to them. I request you to issue a direction to listen to their demands help them and their Dharana. No officer has yet gone there to listen to them. I want to know from the government the reason as to why the people who do this abhorring work of cleaning the garbage, are not given respect. Leave aside the question of their respect. From the last 40 months they have not received their salary, and in this regard is not in existence. Leaders are not ready to hear them. That's why I make a humble submission to you and to this house that the demands of Safai-karmacharis should be considered sympathetically because they are protesting in front of the Legislative Assembly from the last 4 months, How will they feed their children. How will they educate them. Today, we are going to celebrate the 50th year of our Independence and they are sitting on Dharana. The Government may resort to force against them. If it happen, it would be injustice with the Safai Kamacharis...*(Interruptions)*. It will affect the whole of India. How will this Government seen? ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Premi, Please take your seat

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sambasiva Rao is going to say.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the summer season this year was so severe in Andhra Pradesh and especially in Guntur District, the season had taken its toll wherein so many places the fire accident took place as a result of which 600 families were rendered homeless and property worth lakhs of rupees was damaged and they are under the trees. At one place, a wife and husband got self-immolated.

Due to the untold miseries of the weaker sections in my constituency, we approached the banks to sanction soft loans to the victims of the fire accidents and accordingly the nationalised banks in all the affected places came to the rescue of the victims of these devastating fire accidents. But however, things have been altogether different in the case of the State Bank of India in their service area.

It is in this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unprecedented situation which arose due to the devastating fire that broke out in a village, Chityala Tanda, Bellamkonda Mandal in Guntur Parliamentary constituency. All the houses, which were thatched roof houses, in the village were reduced to ashes and the fire caused severe damage to the property of villages, who are poor and down-trodden and belong to the Scheduled Tribe community. Around 40 families were rendered homeless and are literally on the road, without any shelter and they have no means to carry on.

With a view to help the victims of the fire, the District Coordination Committee of the nationalised banks met on 9th July, 1997 and resolved to sanction a soft loan of Rs. 5,000/- to each and every victim of the fire accident, which is inclusive of a subsidy of Rs. 1,250/- granted by the State Government under different head. The balance of the loan amount will be repaid by the beneficiaries, who are the victims of the fire accident, in monthly installments of Rs. 100/- per month. The lead bank of the District, that is, Andhra Bank, has advised banks in the District to sanction the loans accordingly to the fire affected villages in their service area.

All the banks have sanctioned the loans, but unfortunately, the State Bank of India is reluctant to adhere to the decision taken by the District Coordination Committee of the Banks and has refused to sanction loans to the fire victims. Despite repeated requests, the State Bank of India has not at all come forward to support the victims to start a new life.

If loans in cash and not in kind are sanctioned, the villagers will be able to put up thatched roof houses and settle down to carry on with the work of earning their livelihood afresh and can slowly repay the amount to the bank. But if they are sanctioned loans for purchase of buffaloes, without any roof over their heads, how can they even think of purchasing buffaloes and try to make out their livelihood? It is a thing which can be never thought of.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sambasiva Rao, you should not read. You please take your seat. If you take so much time, then other Members would not get the opportunity to speak. Please conclude now.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Sir, I will take one more minute.

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*Not Recorded.